



Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

# The Citizen Forester

JULY 2014

## Community Partnerships and Urban Trees Celebrated at 2014 Tree City USA Awards

By **Rick Harper** On Wednesday, June 4, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Urban & Community Forestry Program hosted 75 community forestry professionals, representatives, and volunteers from around the state at the Andover Town House in Andover, MA. The day's events were organized by DCR's Community Action Forester, Mollie Freilicher, and DCR's new Urban Forestry Coordinator, Julie Coop. Julie welcomed the crowd with a DCR Urban Forestry update, along with Paul Sanborn, the Town of Andover Tree Warden, who discussed the changes and increasing complexities that his community has faced over the years, including the need to be able to work with a wide number of groups, from various levels of government, to professional arborists, to community volunteers. Rick Harper from UMass Department of Environmental Conservation provided a Planting Research Program Update, detailing some of the propagation work he has initiated involving hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) – resistant Chinese hemlock, as well as the Amherst Oak Research Project that involves Drs. Nina Bassuk of Cornell University and Dan Lass of UMass Amherst. These researchers are examining various

economic and plant physiological considerations as they relate to planting trees in the urban environment, including the creation of a budgeting tool aimed at helping communities better understand and compare the costs of trees that are produced using different systems (i.e. bare-root, container-grown, in-ground fabric, and field-grown trees).

emphasis on safety. Anne-Marie Moran and Jim MacArthur discussed utility pruning, including company practices, and emphasized the importance of being aware of power lines when performing tree work in municipalities and of adhering to safety standards for work around power lines. Eric Seaborn discussed his recent work on emerald ash borer (EAB) preparedness and Brian Skinner presented on hazards associated with dead and dying ash trees. They emphasized the importance of identifying ash trees and how ash mortality associated with EAB and the inevitable structural failure of dead ash trees may impact the power supply and cost communities large sums of money. They discussed the importance of being proactive in establishing protocols for EAB infestations, and suggested the establishment of local EAB task-forces, such as have been convened in New York state.



Other program speakers included DCR Forest Health staff Melanie Joy, who provided an update about the state of forest health in Massachusetts, including the status of invasive insects like winter moth and HWA. She reported that HWA populations have been reduced by an estimated 65% - 85% due to recent winter temperatures. Gregory Goodfellow, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator for the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), discussed the EAB Wasp Watcher program that involves using citizen-science volunteers who help to scout for the *Cerceris fumipennis*, a predator of EAB. DCR Commissioner Jack Murray and Peter Church, DCR Director of Forest Stewardship, introduced and kicked off the afternoon Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line USA awards ceremony. National Grid generously sponsored the food for the day, including breakfast and lunch.

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Representatives from National Grid headlined the day and updated attendees about utility pruning and clearance standards and practices, with an

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## Community Partnerships and Urban Trees Celebrated at 2014 Tree City USA Awards

As this important awards ceremony continues to grow in popularity, attendees continue to express gratitude and thanks for the appreciation being bestowed upon them for their work in greening their local towns. "This is a great ceremony," said one Tree Warden, "many of us live in the communities in which we work and we take pride in bettering the appearance of our towns by planting trees." Congratulations to all the participants that were honored at the 2014 Tree City, Tree Line, and Tree Campus USA Awards.

For information on how your community can become a Tree City USA, see the [November 2013](#) issue of *The Citizen Forester* or at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

Rick Harper is the Extension Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMass-Amherst.

Images (clockwise from top left: DCR Director of Forest Stewardship Peter Church and DCR Commissioner John P. Murray; Eric Seaborn, National Grid; Paul Sanborn, Andover Tree Program; Amy Janovsky, Friends of Andover Community Trees; Rick Harper, Extension Assistant Professor, UMass; Commissioner Murray addressing the crowd; Melanie Joy, DCR Forest Health Specialist; Brian Skinner, National Grid; Anne-Marie Moran, National Grid.





# Species Spotlight—Sourwood, *Oxydendrum arboreum*

By **Mollie Freilicher**  
MA-DCR  
Community Action Forester



States, occurring naturally in Maryland and southeastern Pennsylvania, south to northwestern Florida, west to Louisiana, and north to southern Indiana. It grows in well-drained soils of hill-sides and bottomlands, up to 5,000 feet and out to the Coastal Plain of North Carolina and Virginia. The habit is pyramidal to conical, with spreading branches.



60 feet in West Virginia.

Leaves of sourwood are alternate, simple, and elliptic and range from four to seven inches long. They are shiny green above and lighter on the underside, and they have a sour taste. Fall color is variable, but typically leaves

Here in the northeast, throughout the summer, we get to witness a parade of showy, flowering trees. This month's species, sourwood, is one member of that parade, with its plethora of white blooms that appear in mid-July. Sourwood is a tree of the southern Appalachians. This member of the *Ericaceae* family is native to the southeastern United



turn red, purple, and yellow, sometimes on the same tree. The bark is gray-brown and deeply furrowed. Sourwood flowers resemble the flower lily of the valley and are a quarter-inch long, white, and urn-shaped. They form panicles that droop and can be profuse, giving the tree a somewhat shaggy appearance. The fruit is a five-valved capsule that matures in autumn and persists on the tree, and that can be an identification feature throughout the winter.

Sourwood does not have any serious pests and with its year-round features, would make a great addition to the landscape as a specimen tree.



Sourwood is a small to medium-sized tree, growing 25-30 feet tall, with a smaller spread, around 20 feet. In some parts of its native range, sourwood can grow much taller, reaching heights upwards of 60 feet. A 1920 publication of the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station lists the height as between 30 and



Photos: Leaf, bark: Virginia Tech; Flower, fruit: UConn; Form: University of Arkansas Extension, Fall color: Mollie Freilicher

## Growing on Trees

### Thank you National Grid and the Town of Andover!!!

Thank you **National Grid** for generously sponsoring our annual Tree City, Tree Line, and Tree Campus USA Award Forum and Ceremony this year. We strongly value your support!

And thank you to the **Town of Andover** for hosting us in the beautiful Andover Town House.



## DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

**Deadline November 1**

It's not too early to start planning for the next round of our Challenge Grant program.

Challenge grants are **50-50 matching grants** (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and non-profit groups in Massachusetts communities of **all sizes** for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.

For more information on the Challenge Grants (including our NSTAR Go Green grants and National Grid Partnership Grants) go to the [DCR website](#) or contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or [julie.coop@state.ma.us](mailto:julie.coop@state.ma.us) or Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us).

## Communicating with the Media and Diverse Organizations

*Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (EDT)*

Urban Foresters may find themselves working with many groups with varying opinions/objectives, as well as attempting to address issues and answer questions where their responses may end up in print. Join us for our third in this series of four summer noon-hour broadcasts as David Bloniarz, Ph.D., US Forest Service, outlines strategies and tips for navigating these sometimes unfamiliar frontiers.

To attend, individuals should visit [www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com) (and input code #625425687).

This broadcast is free and will offer the opportunity for Arborist's to earn 1.0 ISA CEU and 0.5 MCA credit.

**For more information, contact:** Rick Harper, Department of Environmental Conservation, UMass Amherst [rharper@eco.umass.edu](mailto:rharper@eco.umass.edu)

*Sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association, University of Massachusetts Extension, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.*

# Growing on Trees

## Tree Campus USA Webcast

**When:** Thursday, July 17, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

**Where:** Online <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/join/715923639> (See connection information below.)

**Cost:** Free

**Target Audience:** Facilities personnel and other interested faculty and staff from colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

**Presenters:** Arbor Day Foundation, DCR Urban and Community Forestry, and representatives from the College of the Holy Cross.

### Goals of the webcast:

- Learn how Tree Campus USA recognition can help your campus build a high-impact campus forestry program and meet campus sustainability goals
- Learn about the Tree Campus USA standards
- Hear a case study on a Massachusetts college, including their experience becoming a Tree Campus USA and the benefits they have observed from their participation
- Learn about the support the DCR Urban and Community Forestry program can offer your campus throughout the application process
- Have your questions answered by staff from the Arbor Day Foundation, DCR Urban and Community Forestry, and the College of the Holy Cross.



Tree Campus USA is a free, national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, and sponsored by Toyota, to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. Hundreds of colleges and universities, nationwide, have achieved the title by meeting the five standards of Tree Campus USA: maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and student service-learning project.

For more information on the Tree Campus USA program, go to: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/>

**RSVP for the webcast:** [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us)

### Connection Information:

1. Please join my meeting, Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time.

<https://www4.gotomeeting.com/join/715923639>

2. Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) - a headset is recommended. Or, call in using your telephone.

Dial +1 (312) 878-3080

Access Code: 715-923-639

Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting

Meeting ID: 715-923-639



# Growing on Trees

## 2014 Summer Conference and Trade Show

### Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association

July 24: MNLA/MFGA Summer Conference and Trade Show at Savage Farms, Deerfield, MA

Keynote Presentation: "The Future in Plant Materials" by Michael Dirr

Our featured Keynote speaker is the author of seven books, including *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture and Propagation and Uses*, a widely used and best-selling reference text.

Take advantage of the newest ideas and cutting-edge information and education to put you ahead of your competition. Pesticide credits, speed educational sessions, and tours are only a few of this year's exciting program.

Sponsored by: The Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association and the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association

Regular Registration will end July 17, 2014:

For registration information, go to: <http://www.mnla.com/mnlamfga-summer-conference-and-trade-show/>  
2 MCH Credits

## DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners

Thank you to all the schools that participated in our 2014 Arbor Day Poster Contest. We had some great entries on this year's theme: "Trees are terrific and good for our health!" The Arbor Day Poster Contest is an annual competition for fifth graders in Massachusetts. It challenges students to create a poster on a theme that changes from year to year. Congratulations to our first place winner from Stearns Elementary School in Pittsfield. Stay tuned for next year's contest information.

**First Place:** Stearns Elementary School, Pittsfield

**Second Place (tie):** Becket Washington Elementary School, Becket

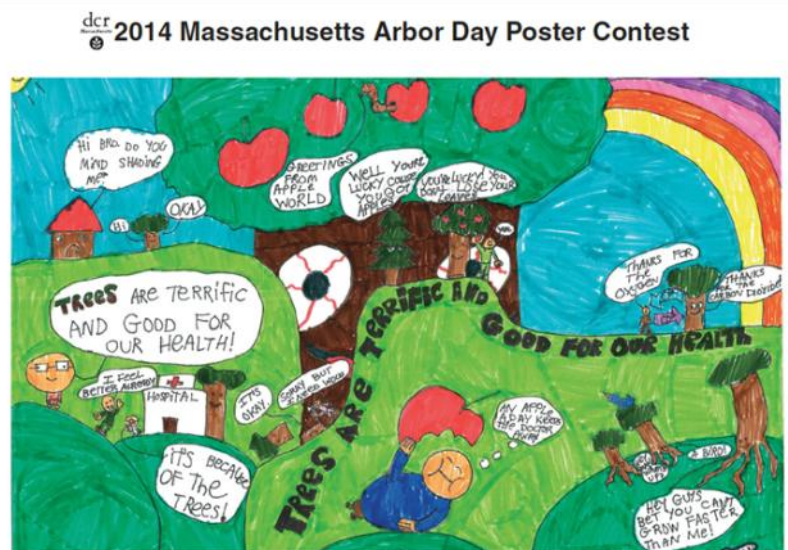
**Second Place (tie):** Fall Brook Elementary School, Leominster

**Third Place:** Russell Street Elementary School, Littleton

**Honorable Mention:** North Intermediate School, Wilmington

**Honorable Mention:** West Intermediate School, Wilmington

**Honorable Mention:** Kingston Intermediate School, Kingston



First Place Winner

We do our best to ensure that listings are accurate, but please check with program organizers for the most up-to-date information.

# Growing on Trees

## UMass Extension Landscape Message

UMass Extension's *Landscape Message* is an educational newsletter that informs and helps guide green industry professionals in the management of our collective landscape.

Each *Landscape Message* includes valuable information from sites throughout Massachusetts: growing degree day accumulation, soil temperature, precipitation amounts, and plant phenology. Detailed reports on cultural practices and the status of insects, diseases, and weeds of interest to landscapers, arborists and turf managers are also regular features. A new message is available weekly during the heart of the growing season, bi-weekly in mid-to-late summer, and monthly during the fall.

Subscribe to the Extension e-mail list to receive notification in your inbox when each new message is posted: <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/services/email-list>.

For more information from UMass Extension, go to <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/>.

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## Gleanings

### Next Generation Infrastructure Behaves Like Nature

Between crumbling bridges, rising sea levels, growing garbage piles, and the ravages of drought and storms, we've grown used to bad news when it comes to infrastructure in the United States. Old systems are failing, new challenges arising, and solutions are elusive or perplexing. Into this maelstrom enters **Hillary Brown**, architect, infrastructure consultant, and professor at the Spitzer School of Architecture. Her new book *Next Generation Infrastructure: Principles for Post-Industrial Public Works* is an inspiring argument for infrastructure that behaves like nature.

Armed with simple prescriptions, Brown argues that the next generation of infrastructure cannot resemble the hard, single-function and carbon-intensive structures of yore. Rather, we need "more diversified, distributed, and interconnected infrastructural assets that simulate the behavior of natural systems." She walks us through the principles of a new ecological infrastructure piece by piece, with abundant case studies that show that ingenious, multi-purpose, carbon-neutral, resilient systems are not a pipe dream. She pays careful attention to how they were implemented, reinforcing the argument that these case studies are models that can be applied beyond their exceptional contexts. Read the full review at [The Dirt](#). (Seen in the American Society of Landscape Architects blog, *The Dirt*.)

### Nature Is But Another Name for Health

"We are trying to figure out precisely what types of nature provide the most health benefits," said William Sullivan, ASLA, a landscape architecture professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, at the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) conference in New Orleans. The eventual goal is to be able to prescribe doses of nature or specific activities in nature to help with a range of illnesses. But we have a long way to go before we can get to this point. "We are just at the beginning of the research. We are moving in the direction of more specificity." Sometime in the future, designers of all kinds will have guidelines that explain the best ways to reap the positive effects of nature. "But today — although we have good evidence that exposure to green landscapes is good for you — we can't say if you design something this way, people will live four years longer." Read the full post at [The Dirt](#). (Seen in the ASLA blog, *The Dirt*.)

# Gleanings

## EPA Heat Island Website

The term "heat island" describes built up areas that are hotter than nearby rural areas. The annual mean air temperature of a city with one million people or more can be 1.8–5.4°F (1–3°C) warmer than its surroundings. In the evening, the difference can be as high as 22°F (12°C). Heat islands can affect communities by increasing summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, heat-related illness and mortality, and water quality.

Communities can take a number of common-sense measures to reduce the effects of summertime heat islands. This website provides information on the heat island effect, its impacts, and the strategies that communities can take to reduce urban temperatures. Of the information available to communities, [key EPA resources](#) include a compendium of mitigation strategies, a community action database, and regularly scheduled webcasts.

Check out this [EPA Web Resource](#) and learn about the heat island effect, impacts, and mitigation and find other resources and information on the heat island effect and find out about events that related to the heat island effect.

Learn more at: <http://www.epa.gov/heatisland>

## You're Planting That Old Thing?

By Michael Tortorello, [The New York Times](#)

The Catalpa Tree Appreciation Society needs fresh blood. There are no meetings to attend and no dues to pay. All you have to do is appreciate the catalpa tree. Maybe plant one in the yard.

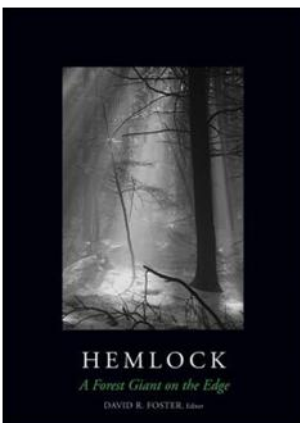
And that's the hitch. Almost no one appreciates the catalpa tree, and few gardeners have planted one since the financial crisis. The one in the 1930s.

The catalpa growing in front of my house dates to a decade or two before then, or so it appears from old street photographs. It's a charismatic tree, with heart-shaped leaves as big around as a 45 r.p.m. record.

Read the [full piece](#) on the changing tastes in plant selection, plants that have fallen out of favor for nursery production, and which ones homeowners should seek out from their local garden centers or specialty nurseries.



Flowers of northern catalpa. (Image source: Virginia Tech)



## Hemlock: A Forest Giant on the Edge

*Hemlock: A Forest Giant on the Edge* is a celebration of the stately Eastern Hemlock by researchers at the Harvard Forest and provides the history and the value of the tree and use of the land through time. One hundred years of research in Petersham, MA informs the study of this tree, now in jeopardy, along with a wider effort to better understand environmental change. (Seen in *Tower Hill Library News*.)





# News

## **Emerald Ash Borers Were in U.S. Long Before First Detection**

New research at Michigan State University shows that the uber-destructive emerald ash borer (EAB) arrived at least ten years before it was first identified in North America. The study, published in the current issue of the journal *Diversity and Distributions*, shows that EABs were feasting on ash trees in southeast Michigan by the early 1990s, well before this pest was discovered in 2002, said Deb McCullough, MSU professor of forest entomology. Read the full story in [ScienceDaily](#).

## **Fungus May Help Stop Invasive Spread of Tree-Of-Heaven**

A naturally occurring fungus might help curb the spread of an invasive tree species that is threatening forests in most of the United States, according to researchers. Researchers tested the fungus -- *Verticillium nonalfalfae*-- by injecting it into tree-of-heaven, or *Ailanthus*, plots, according to Matthew Kasson, who recently received his doctorate in plant pathology and environmental microbiology from Penn State. The treatment completely eradicated the tree-of-heaven plants in those forests. "It appears that this treatment is effective in Pennsylvania and could be used as a bio-control agent throughout the United States," said Kasson. Read the full story at [ScienceDaily](#).

## **Amber Discovery Indicates Lyme Disease is Older Than Human Race**

May 29, 2014—Lyme disease is a stealthy, often misdiagnosed disease that was only recognized about 40 years ago, but new discoveries of ticks fossilized in amber show that the bacteria which cause it may have been lurking around for 15 million years -- long before any humans walked on Earth. The findings were made by researchers who studied 15-20 million-year-old amber from the Dominican Republic that offer the oldest fossil evidence ever found of *Borrelia*, a type of spirochete-like bacteria that to this day causes Lyme disease. Read the full story at [ScienceDaily](#).

## **Town of Hawley, MA Mulls Effects of Supreme Judicial Court Ruling\***

By Diane Broncaccio, Recorder Staff

May 23, 2014, Hawley — A state Supreme Court ruling in favor of a town tax-exemption for the New England Forestry Foundation — given on grounds that its 120-acre woodland in Hawley qualifies for a “charitable” exemption because it provides clean air, water filtration, and absorption of carbon emissions — has prompted Hawley officials to look into legislative changes and to join with other low-population, Highly-forested small towns that have a hard time generating enough revenue to cover their towns’ operating costs. Read the complete story at [The Recorder](#).

\***Opinion summary from [Justia.com](#):** New England Forestry Foundation, Inc. (NEFF) was a nonprofit corporation organized under Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 180 and the record owner of a parcel of forest land in the town of Hawley. The Board of Assessors for Hawley denied NEFF’s application for a charitable tax exemption on the parcel. The Appellate Tax Board (Board) also denied the application on the grounds that NEFF did not show that it occupied the land for a charitable purpose within the meaning of Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 59, 5, Third (Clause Third). The Supreme Judicial Court reversed the Board’s opinion, holding that the Board erred in concluding that NEFF did not meet its burden to show that it occupied the property within the meaning of Clause Third.

## **Bad News for Hardwood Trees: There's a New Caterpillar In Connecticut**

Groton - A tiny lime green caterpillar crawled, accordion-style, on a deformed cherry tree leaf newly opened for spring, extending no bigger than an eyelash but leaving a telltale pattern of destruction far in excess of its size. "You can see the holes in the leaves," Katherine Dugas, research assistant with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, said Tuesday, examining a low-hanging branch growing along the main path at the town-owned Beebe Pond Park. "Those holes were not eaten in a fully-formed leaf; they were made as the leaf was forming." As she continued along the path, she found the caterpillars at nearly every other hardwood along the way - red oaks, red maples, and crab apples. Read the full story about winter moth at [The Day](#).

# On the Horizon

- July 8** Urban Wood Utilization Webcast, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/werc/>
- July 17** **\*\*Date Change\*\*** DCR Webcast: Tree Campus USA in Massachusetts: How and Why your College or University Should Participate (Sponsored by DCR and the Arbor Day Foundation. Email [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us) for information.)
- July 22** Bucket Truck Safe Operations, Amherst, [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)
- July 23** Urban Forestry Today Webcast, *Communicating with the Media and Diverse Organizations*, [www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com) (and input code #625425687).
- July 24** Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Trade Show, Deerfield, MA, [www.mnla.com](http://www.mnla.com)
- Aug 1** ISA Exam, University of Maine, Orono, [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- Aug 2-6** ISA International Conference and Tradeshow, Milwaukee, WI, [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)
- Sept 15-17** Precision Felling, Chainsaw Safety and Handling, ArborMaster, Martha's Vineyard, [www.arbormaster.com](http://www.arbormaster.com)
- Sept 18-19** Tree Climbing Methods, Work Positioning Best Practice, ArborMaster, Martha's Vineyard, [www.arbormaster.com](http://www.arbormaster.com)

- Sept 23** MA Arborists Association Dinner Meeting, Framingham, [www.massarbor.org](http://www.massarbor.org)
- Sept 28-30** New England ISA – 48th Annual Conference & Tradeshow, Burlington, VT, [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- Oct 1** **Deadline for Intent to Apply:**  
[Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- Oct 2** PDS Chainsaw Safety, Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Assoc., [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)
- Oct 3** Massachusetts Certified Arborist Exam, [www.massarbor.org](http://www.massarbor.org)
- Oct 21** MA Arborist Association Safety Saves, Wellesley, [www.massarbor.org](http://www.massarbor.org)
- Oct 24-25** DCR Tree Steward Training, Petersham, MA
- Oct 31-Nov 2** Women's Tree Climbing Workshop-Level II, Petersham, [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)
- Nov 1** Deadline: DCR Urban and Community Forestry



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**dcr**  
*Massachusetts*



**Deval Patrick**, Governor

**Maeve Vallely Bartlett**, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

**John P. Murray**, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation

**Peter Church**, Director of Forest Stewardship, Department of Conservation and Recreation

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**The Citizen Forester** is made possible through a grant from the **USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program** and the **Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry**.

**If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), please contact [Mollie Freilicher](mailto:Mollie.Freilicher) or click [here](#).**

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